

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's Office Action mailed March 28, 2005. Responsive thereto, a number of grammatical amendments have been made so as to more clearly set forth the present invention. Several new claims, allowable as described below, have been added hereby.

It is believed that claims 6 and 9, as currently amended, provide appropriate antecedent basis for the limitation "members of the plurality" in each of those claims. Each of claims 6 and 9 depends from claim 5. Claim 5 includes:

"generating a plurality of separate indicia."

In view of the above, antecedent basis is present in each of claims 6 and 9 relative to the "plurality of separate indicia". Claims 6 and 9 now refer to "presenting members of the plurality" (claim 6) and "wherein members of the plurality" (claim 9). In each instance, "members" is referred to for the first time in the respective claim 6 or 9. However "plurality" had previously been introduced in claim 5. Thus, it is submitted that appropriate antecedent basis is present in the respective claims 6 and 9.

Wilson et al. the basis of the outstanding anticipation rejection is quite unlike the claimed invention. Wilson et al. is a conventional computer based control system with a graphical user interface. Wilson et al. however does not anticipate the claimed invention in that the indicia that are provided, see Fig. 4C thereof, for example, merely are the standard types of information provided to system operators as to the current state of various system elements. Wilson et al. is completely silent relative to and does not address the problem solved by the pending claims. As described in the present application:

"Each of the monitoring elements is coupled to and monitors the functionality of one of the systems, or a subsystem, which provides predetermined service in and to the region. For example, elements could monitor the operability of fire alarm system, a lighting control system, a wireless repeater system, a regional security system or heating/air conditioning system which services the region. Signals indicative of the operational status of the various systems being monitored are brought to a common control unit presented. There the functionality indicating feedback information could be presented audibly or visually, such as via synthetic speech, a display or by hard copy. The monitoring

elements provide, in a disclosed embodiment, periodic indicia of the functionality of the respective system, or subsystem.

In one disclosed embodiment, a predetermined signal can be provided at periodic intervals indicative of the proper operation of the system being monitored. For example, an electrical sequence, such as a pulse train can periodically be provided to a predetermined, location indicative of the proper operation of regional security system or regional fire alarm system. The same could be provided for the regional fire control system, wireless repeating system or heating/air conditioning system. Separate signals can be provided for subsystems or components.

The periodically appearing signals provide a current, recurring, indicator that the respective system, subsystem or component is functioning as expected. In the absence of the appropriate signal, an audible or visible indicator could be provided at the common predetermined monitoring unit indicative of a system, subsystem or component failure. The appropriate system could then be evaluated to determine its functionality. Necessary repairs or changes could be expeditiously carried out." (Last paragraph p. 2 - 2nd full paragraph p. 3)

As explained above, embodiments of the claimed invention provide additional signals to an operator which go beyond the present state of the respective system. These signals provide additional information as to whether the system is functioning in its normal fashion. The displays and disclosures of Wilson et al., Fig. 4C do not provide operator information as claimed.

In support of the outstanding rejections the Examiner has referred (p. 3 Office Action) to Col. 16, line 46-65 of Wilson et al. However as noted below, that text merely describes how a user can set time based conditional circumstances as follows:

"If the user would like the conditional to be active during a specific time period, the user can select the Time button 170. This will allow the user to enter the time of day as well as specific days of the week during which the condition will be true, assuming all of the other parameters were met. More specifically, the Entrance Delay field 171, used in security systems, allows a security guard to deactivate the alarm within a specific time interval after entering a building. Similarly, the Exit Delay field 172 allows for a specified time to get out of the building before the alarm is activated.


The Start time field 173 specifies the time of date to start controlling the digital output channel and/or X-10 output. The Stop time field 174 specifies the time of day to stop controlling the digital output channel. If the user specifies an On time

in field 175 and Off time in field 176, the output will turn on for the on time duration, and off for the off time duration. It will continue to cycle this manner from the Start time until the Stop time is reached." (Col. 16, lines 46-55 Wilson et al.)

The above is thus unlike the claimed methods and systems and does not anticipate those claims. Thus, for at least for the above reasons Wilson et al. does not anticipate the pending claims. Allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

WELSH & KATZ, LTD.

By 
Paul M. Vargo
Registration No. 29,116

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WELSH & KATZ, LTD.
Customer No. 24628